

HONORING BOOKS FOR AFRICA  
FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of an internationally recognized nongovernmental organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, that for the past 25 years has helped to transform the lives of millions of people—young and old—across the continent of Africa. With commitment and a passion for putting a book in the hands of children and elders hungry for knowledge, Books for Africa is an organization that has shipped more than 20 million books to more than 35 African countries since 1988. In so many African cities, towns and rural schools, where students had no access to books, there are now books for learning, enjoyment, and to experience the wonders of the world.

Mr. Tom Warth is the founder of Books for Africa and he is an inspirational humanitarian. Tom's vision, enthusiasm, and his ongoing commitment, along with the work of all the board of directors of Books for Africa, continues to transform lives by facilitating the shipment of container after container of books that put real books in the hands of real people.

Now, under the strong leadership of Mr. Pat Plonsky, I am proud to continue my office's ongoing relationship with Books for Africa. Their collaborations with Peace Corps volunteers, the State Department, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, enables the U.S. to demonstrate both its generosity and its willingness to provide a tangible learning tool. Last year, in partnership with USAID's Africa Education Initiative, 18 containers of books were delivered to Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. All told, Books for Africa delivered 119 containers of books in 2007 to 22 countries, a truly impressive accomplishment.

This form of public diplomacy—putting the book in the hands of a child or elder—is truly the best face of America and should not only be sustained, but expanded. In the U.S. we take books for granted, but we should never forget the power of a book. And, when they are distributed by the millions, the benefit cannot be overstated.

Let me conclude by also recognizing the extraordinary effort of the volunteers for Books for Africa, as well as the donations of high quality books from publishers, schools and organizations. This combined and coordinated effort is transforming lives. If this generosity and determination to provide books can continue to match the hunger for knowledge, learning, and education by the children and adults all across the African continent, then we will have even greater accomplishments to celebrate in the future.

Again, congratulations to Books for Africa for 25 years of extraordinary work to build a bridge of knowledge, education and hope between Minnesota and communities all across Africa.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES HERBERT  
"JIMMIE RED" JONES

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Arkansas statesman MG (Ret.) James Herbert "Jimmie Red" Jones of Hot Springs, Arkansas, who passed away on September 1, 2008 at the age of 88. He was a former Arkansas State auditor and a former adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard.

I will forever remember Jimmie Red Jones as one of Arkansas's finest. His life was one defined by honor, leadership, and service to the people of Arkansas for over 70 years.

Jimmie Red Jones graduated from Magnolia High School, Southern Arkansas University and Keegan's School of Radio and Television in Memphis. He attended Arkansas Law School and later received the Southern Arkansas University Distinguished Alumni Award in 1988.

Jimmie Red Jones joined the Arkansas National Guard in 1938, and by the time he left active service in 1945, he had received the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters (which he particularly cherished), the Joint Service Medal, the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal recognition with five Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal—along with many others. He later rejoined the National Guard in 1947 and remained with the Guard until his promotion to adjutant general in 1979, earning the Legion of Merit and the Armed Forces Reserve Medals.

Jimmie Red Jones returned to Magnolia after the war and sought to serve his community. He organized the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, and Chamber of Commerce in Magnolia. Governor Francis Cherry appointed him as State land commissioner in 1955 and he was named Magnolia Man of the Year that same year.

He was also elected State auditor in 1956 and served 12 terms. He would later serve as adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard from 1979 to 1981 and then from 1983 to 1984.

I will especially always remember the many miles and countless hours that I spent with Jimmie Red Jones on the campaign trail while he pursued his active interest in politics serving as state campaign manager for Bill Clinton's 1982 gubernatorial campaign.

Jimmie Red Jones will be forever remembered in Arkansas as an inspiring example of selfless service to state and country. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Shirley Ledbetter Jones, Colonel (Ret.); stepsons Bobby Dale Gentry of Pine Bluff, Barry Gentry of Redfield and Chan Holcombe of Fort Smith; his six grand-step-children and his niece and nephew. Jimmie Red Jones will be greatly missed in Arkansas and we are all truly saddened by this loss.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS  
JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences for the passing of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Not only was she a true hero and noble leader in the United States Congress, a trailblazer for all minorities, but she was also a friend who will be dearly missed.

Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' passing is a tragic loss for this Congress and our Nation. Her leadership on the ethics committee and on voting rights will never be forgotten. On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we send our prayers and condolences to her family, friends and staff.

As Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I worked with Representative JONES together on a variety of projects, including our fundraising efforts for Gallaudet University here in Washington, as well as other endeavors which promoted advocacy for low-income and minority communities.

Having been blessed with the opportunity to get to know her outside the walls of Congress as a team member of the Democratic Congressional Basketball Team, I was impressed by her continually cheerful disposition and lively energy. Due to this vigor, she was always able to spread joy to others and add a positive light no matter the situation.

STEPHANIE's death will be felt by all, not just within Cleveland community, but also throughout the Nation because of the ideals she stood for. I offer the thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara and myself to Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' son Mervyn and for her family for their loss.

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OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS  
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THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my most sincere condolences on the death of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I was extremely saddened to hear the news of Congresswoman JONES' passing. Since 1999, she has proudly and honorably served Ohio's eleventh district.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the daughter of an Airport skycap. She grew up in Cleveland and graduated from college and law school at Case Western. She began her life of public service when she went to work as a local government lawyer and went on to serve